

Earn a high school diploma by preparing for a career

Written by

Tuesday, 14 September 2010 16:40

The Minnesota Internship Center (MNIC) Charter High School reaches out to students who have not fared well in traditional high schools and alternative settings. For these students, MNIC creates small learning communities that allow each student to build a learning plan within the reflecting his or her own personal/career interests. □

The proposition is simple and compelling: Earn a high school diploma by preparing for a career.

MNIC serves youths 16 through 20 years of age. It is the only charter school in Minnesota certified by the state to offer Adult Basic Education.

Last year, students who started in the fall with MNIC and stayed through the year, averaged academic gains of nearly two years, according the Oliver White, team leader of MNIC's Unity Campus in North Minneapolis. White talked about MNIC's mission to expand student enrollment recently on "Conversations with Al McFarlane" which is broadcast each week KFAI-FM 90.3.

White said the MNIC can accommodate an additional 200 or so students above those currently enrolled at the beginning of the school year.

He said the school is uniquely successful in creating community and individual collaborations for its students. For instance, the Carlson School of Management provides assistance through a class partnership in which a group of Carlson graduate students volunteered to create a comprehensive staff recruitment program for MNIC.

Hennepin County Training and Employment funds Industrial Technology Training, in a partnership that involves four Minneapolis area machining companies. Employment Action Center's Bright Futures Program provides career counseling and training to MNIC learners.

The Minnesota Literacy Council supports a small adult diploma program at the East High School.

Sabathani Community Center collaborates to support MNIC's theatrical production program and Catalyst Community Partners, a community development business based in North Minneapolis which owns the MNIC Unity House site, has engaged a number of local businesses to help support Unity campus programs.

White said MNIC promises students will earn an official high school diploma as a result of the program's rigorous academic programs and test help. The training will prepare students for careers as nursing assistants and other health care professions, culinary arts, building trades, and the arts.

Paid internships are available for good students and all students get help in finding jobs and work study opportunity.

He said MNIC is free so tuition is not a barrier. In addition MNIC provides free transportation and meals at school. The school has awarded over 770 diplomas earned since 2003, according to its recruitment literature.

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MNIC Minneapolis campuses are: Unity - 2507 Fremont Avenue North, East High - 300 Industrial Blvd (near Hwy 280 and Hennepin, Sabathani Center - 310 East 38th Street in South Minneapolis, and UTEC - 1313 5th St. SE in Dinkytown.

For further information call (612) 280-2330 or (612) 328-7734 for Somali Language.